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Executive Rec

107-3788

8 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : New Pamphlet, entitled What every American should know about the CIA,
by William Steuart McBirnie

1. This memorandum is for information only to invite your attention to a new pamphlet entitled What every American should know about the CIA, by Dr. William Steuart McBirnie.

2. The pamphlet is undated and uncopyrighted, but includes 1967 material. It is designated as a C. A. R. E. publication, standing for the Center for American Research and Education. The latter's address is given as Box 90, Glendale, California. The initials VOA also appear on the cover, and stand for the Voice of Americanism, a McBirnie radio program on about 50 stations sponsored by C. A. R. E. and the United Community Churches of America, Inc. (V. O. A. Dept.). Dr. McBirnie is designated as senior minister of the United Community Church of Glendale.

3. Dr. McBirnie was born in 1920. Biographic data on the back cover of this pamphlet indicates a theological education, and that he is a Knight of Malta (O. S. J., 1964). In 1955 he received a Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce Award as one of five outstanding young Texans. McBirnie is described as a radio news analyst, archeologist, world traveler, and author of more than 125 books. He is further characterized as being known "for his responsible defense of Americanism, and his unrelenting war on socialism, appeasement, accommodation, and co-existence with communism."

4. Regarding Dr. McBirnie's contacts with CIA, he states in What every American should know about the CIA, that:

"The writer is not without some acquaintance with the inner working of the CIA. He was flown to Washington by the CIA on two separate occasions for conferences on his possible relationship with the agency, but nothing came of it. The plans projected by the Agency for a certain

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intelligence mission were abandoned. However, in lengthy conferences with agents in secret places in Washington, and in reading the indoctrination courses on the nature of communism and similar subjects, the writer was able to form a vivid impression of the attitudes and concepts of the agency and its top personnel. Study courses furnished by the Agency were anti-communist but not anti-socialist. There was apparently no awareness of the relationship between Fabian Socialism and communism." 25X1 (pp. 4-5)



6. What every American should know about the CIA is larded with quotations from such right wing sources as Human Events, National Review, Edward Hunter and Edith Kermit Roosevelt. These are used to document such charges as CIA's "meddling role in domestic affairs," playing "footsie" with the left wing, and "eagerly pushing into the areas of propaganda and thought control." To this is added the charge that the State Department has taken over "operational control" of the CIA, both of us laboring under the false assumption that socialists make effective anti-communists. In this connection, Cord Meyer also comes under some attack. (p. 24)

7. The seeds of CIA left wing affinities are traced back to the post-World War I period, when the Dulles brothers, together with Walter Lippmann, Norman Thomas and Christian Herter, worked under Colonel House to plan a "brave new socialist world." In 1919, they met with some like-minded young Englishmen and then came home to establish the Council on Foreign Relations, of which Allen Dulles became the president. Dr. McBirnie condescends (in italics yet) that Mr. Dulles "is not a communist." (pp. 9-10)

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8. Dr. McBirnie has trouble pegging Richard Helms. He notes that "little is known of his activities" during his 1947-52 period "in the War Department intelligence service;" but that his attitude toward his CIA responsibility "is a highly developed professional one." However, Dr. McBirnie finds no evidence that Mr. Helms ever "looked with disfavor upon the CIA's involvement with left wing liberal organizations." (pp. 10-11)

9. While approving CIA's performance in British Guiana, in infiltrating the tri-Continental Congress in Havana in 1966, and in Guatemala, McBirnie finds things to criticize in Gary Powers' conduct, in Radio Free Europe ("a veritable travesty on freedom broadcasting"), the Bay of Pigs and even the Cuban missile crisis. In conclusion, Dr. McBirnie calls for CIA to be forced by Congress to obey the laws; to drastically overhaul its top-level personnel; and to assume its rightful place as an intelligence gathering agency; and not to be diverted (presumably by the State Department and left wingers) from its vitally important task. (pp. 33, 35)

Walter Pforzheimer
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Historical Intelligence Collection

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